

## TEXAS TRANSFERS by Maritha Pottenger

**Texas Transfers** are used when partner opens 1NT or 2NT. Like Jacoby Transfers, Texas Transfers are designed to make the strong (NT opening) hand the Declarer (and protect likely tenace holdings).

Originally, **Texas transfers were designed to show hands with which you expected to (probably) make game, but had no real chance at slam.** That meant you had a 6-card major suit and generally 9-12 HCP. Since Texas Transfers came after Jacoby, it was understood that you would use a Jacoby Transfer (followed by a jump to game) to make a mild slam try, and a Texas Transfer to show no interest in slam.

Texas Transfers use the same system as Jacoby Transfers—but two levels higher. If you have a 6-card heart suit and partner opens 1NT or 2NT, bid 4D and partner will accept the transfer by bidding 4H. If you have a 6-card spade suit and partner opens 1NT or 2NT, bid 4H and partner will accept the transfer by bidding 4S. **WARNING:** Partners have been known to pass 4H because it sounds like a game sign-off. Be very careful if you decide to play Texas Transfers!

**Basic Texas Transfers** (like Jacoby) **involve only the two major suits.** Some people extend transfers into the minor suits as well.

Nowadays, **most partners have an agreement about Jacoby Transfers, Texas Transfers, and the 4NT bid.** The usual approach is to say that Texas Transfers show either (1) a hand with no slam interest or (2) a hand that wants to set the suit and then look for slam. In that case, making a Jacoby Transfer and then bidding 4NT is agreed to be quantitative. (You have a 5-card major and enough points to invite partner to bid 6NT with a maximum hand.) Therefore, after a Texas Transfer, 4NT is ace-asking or Roman Key Card Blackwood if you are playing that convention. You have a solid (or missing only one honor) 6-card or longer suit and are looking for slam.

**Most people agree that bidding a new suit after a Jacoby transfer** (and its acceptance) **is forcing and could be a slam try.** It might be a second suit or it may be a cue bid (showing control). Some people play jump bids are splinters (showing shortness). A Jacoby transfer followed by a jump to 4 of major is a **mild slam try.** At least one suit has 2 quick losers. [An example hand might be: xx AKQxxx Kxx Kx.] Opener can explore slam with good controls.

**Some partners play that Texas transfers are still on after interference** by the opponents—if the interference was below a certain level. (That could be 3C, 3D, 3S—depending on what your partnership agreement is.) Discuss and decide!

If you decide to use Texas Transfers for both the game-only hands and the slam-oriented hands, make sure you and your partner are in agreement. An example of a game-only hand would be:  
xx AKxxxx Kxx xx An example of a looking-for-slam hand would be: Kx AKQxxxx Kxx x

If you and your partner agree that 1NT followed by a Jacoby Transfer and then 4NT is quantitative, a sample hand could be: Kx AQJxx Axx Qxx . After partner opens 1NT, you bid 2D (transfer) and partner bids 2H. You bid 4NT. Partner can pass, bid 5H, bid 6H, or bid 6NT.